Amendments to the Specification:

Following the title of the application, please add the following new heading and paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/119,189 entitled "Internet Shipping System" filed on February 8, 1999.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 2, lines 8 through 17, to read as follows:

For all of these transactions, a carrier must be engaged to deliver the ordered goods. Historically, this step has been treated as a second transaction, often as complex and time consuming as the original sale of products. Carriers have offered various levels of service, ranging from ground delivery, to overnight delivery, and delivery early the next morning. Customers may visit a store-front drop-off station, drop of off a parcel at a kiosk, or arrange for a regular pick-up by the carrier. Telephone ordering of pick-up as well as delivery services has been offered.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 4, lines 10 through 19, to read as follows:

Thus, despite some advances in the field, there remains a need for a single automated solution for any and all of the above-described delivery ordering scenarios, accessible to large and small volume users through equipment already owned by the users. There has been a further need to solve the foregoing problem by utilizing the power and flexibility of the Internet. The solution should provide even to individual or occasional users

the convenience and flexibility of the ordering and tracking systems heretofore available only to large carriers connected to carriers via a modem or private network.

Please amend the full paragraph beginning on page 28, lines 13 through 23, and ending on page 29, lines 1 through 2, to read as follows:

By way of illustration and not limitation, the package 12 is typically tendered to, or acquired by, the SSP by way of one of three methods. The package sender 16 may tender the package 12 to an SSP representative who accepts the package during the normal course of delivery rounds, the package sender 16 who then tenders the package 12 to the location 32 of their choice, or the package sender 12 may send an order requesting the SSP dispatch a representative to the package sender's location at a specified date within a specified time period to pick up the package 12. In the latter two examples, the package sender 16 sends an order to the ISS 10 via the Internet 30 which informs the SSP 14 that a parcel 12 is available for pickup and delivery.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 37, lines 15 through 20, to read as follows:

As explained in more detail with reference to **FIG. 3**, the internal network 52 is connected to the ODS 34 which, in turn, is connected to a communication means such as the telephone company (telco) 90 and a cellular telephone network (not shown). Via this connection, the ODS dispatches pickup and delivery vehicles.

Please amend the full paragraph beginning on page 39, lines 21 through 23, and ending on page 40, lines 1 through 7, to read as follows:

The dispatch system **102** is a system coupled to the ODS database **36** and to other databases (not shown) that store information about the location and dispatchability of persons and/or vehicles for package pickup and/or delivery. By reference to these databases, the dispatch system, upon receipt of a dispatch order, logs the order into the ODS database **36** and determines which person and/or vehicle is available to pick up the package within the ~~data~~ date, time, and location parameters provided in the pickup order.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 44, lines 9 through 18, to read as follows:

With the foregoing description in mind, turn now to **FIG. 4** for a discussion of the various computer-implemented processes for carrying out the methods of the preferred embodiments of the present invention. Although the preferred embodiments are generally described ~~withreference~~ with reference to an Internet accessible personal computer (PC) operated by a customer or package sender and a Internet web site operated by a SSP, those skilled in the art will recognize that the present invention can also be implemented in conjunction with other program modules for other types of computers.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 51, lines 6 through 8, to read as follows:

Shipping **171** includes the process by which a user or customer ships a package using the Internet-accessible functions. Shipping is described detail below with reference to **FIG. 15**.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 52, lines 4 through 7, to read as follows:

Drop-off locator **492** includes the process by which a user or customer obtains information about possible drop-off locations for depositing of a package with the SSP. Drop-off locator is described ~~in~~ below with reference to **FIG. 17**.

Please amend the full paragraph beginning on page 56, lines 17 through 23, and ending on page 57, lines 1 through 3, to read as follows:

Turn now to **FIG. 5**, for a discussion of the manner in which a customer obtains access to the SSP's web site, typically by accessing an Internet-accessible HOME page and navigating to appropriate pages for registering as a customer, logging in to the ISS to ship a package, or logging into, or ~~maintain~~ maintaining the customer's Internet Services Account Profile (ISAP). **FIG. 5** illustrates a routine **150** operative to display the SSP's Internet WWW HOME page **630** (**FIG. 24**) and await user input to register, log in as a member to ship a package, or log in as a member to maintain the ISAP.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 58, lines 8 through 15, to read as follows:

At decision **164**, the system tests to determine whether a previously-logged in user has decided to view or edit their member profile ISAP or other profile information. ~~selectIf~~ If so, the routine **150** branches to step **166** in response to the user selecting the PROFILE button **636** (**FIG. 24**), and the routine branches to the MEMBER PROFILE routine **264**, described below in connection with **FIG. 9**. Otherwise, the routine **150** proceeds to decision **168**.

Please amend the full paragraph, page 59, lines 1 through 6, to read as follows:

At decision **172** the system tests to determine whether the user has decided to log out from member services. If so, the routine **150** branches to step **174** in response to the user selecting on the LOG OUT button **640** (**FIG. 24**). The user is logged out of the member services area and the routine **150** returns to step **152** to await further user input.

Please amend the full paragraph beginning on page 85, lines 20 through 23, and ending on page 86, lines 1 through 13, to read as follows:

After these steps, the SHIPPING routine **171** proceeds to step **440** illustrated in **FIG. 15F**. The user proceeds with the package shipping process by selecting the CONTINUE button **722** on the SHIPPING INFORMATION page **660**. In response, the system is operative to validate whether the correct Ship To and Ship From postal codes were entered, by reference to a prestored database of valid postal codes, and to calculate the appropriate charge for the shipping service. In the disclosed embodiment, the validation is effected by a RATE AND VALIDATE routine **610**, which is described in connection with **FIG. 23**. The routine **610** returns with information indicating that the postal code ~~are~~ is valid and delivery can be effected by the shipping service provider, as well as the monetary charges for shipping the package that is to be charged to the customer's account or credit card. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that city/state or similar information may be used to rate the shipping costs.

Please amend the full paragraph beginning on page 96, lines 20 through 23, and ending on page 97, lines 1 through 11, to read as follows:

Q14

At decision **536** the system tests whether the user has selected the "PAY USING ANOTHER CREDIT CARD" ~~RADIO~~ radio button **782b**. If not, the routine branches to step **542** to await selection of an exit method. In the case of another credit card, data entry fields **786** for receiving entry of card type, card number, and expiration date are activated. A check box **788** is provided so that the user can make the credit card the new default credit card from now on. The system validates the provided new credit card information at step **538**. If the new credit card information can be validated, the routine branches to step **542** to await selection of an exit method. If the information cannot be ~~validate~~ validated, at step **540** the system displays a message indicating the card is not validated or a message noting why the card is rejected, and returns control to step **534** to await selection of another payment method.